

**CONNECTOR****Abstract**

5 A connector is capable of being miniaturised, whilst inadvertent pushing in of a retainer is prevented.

10 A housing main body 2 into which female terminal fittings are inserted has a retainer insertion groove 23 formed on a side face thereof, a retainer 14 being inserted into this retainer insertion groove 23. The retainer 14 is maintained in a temporary stopping position which allows the insertion of the female terminal fittings into cavities thereof. After that, the retainer 14 is pushed further in and maintained in a main stopping position where it engages stepped members of the female terminal fittings. When the retainer 14 is in the temporary stopping position, the posterior end (relative to the direction of insertion) of this retainer 14 is inside the housing main body 2. As a result, 15 the retainer 14 is not pushed inadvertently into the main stopping position while, for example, the connector is being transported to a site where the female terminal fittings are to be inserted. A hood member 35 does not need to perform the function of protecting the retainer 14, consequently its size can remain small so as merely to cover a sealing ring 10.

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